

8. SIGHT RECORDS OF THE LITTLE GULL *LARUS MINUTUS* FROM GUJARAT

We saw a single little gull *Larus minutus* Pallas in flight amongst a mixed flock of gulls at Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary (Ahmedabad dist.), on January 25, 1996. Since the foraging flock was very close, comparison of its size with other gulls through a spotting scope was not difficult.

The second record was made at Okha port (22° 15' N, 69° 01' E, Jamnagar dist.) on the Gulf of Kachchh on December 29, 1996. Four little gulls, along with the blackheaded gull *Larus ridibundus*, yellowlegged herring gull *Larus argentatus* and lesser blackbacked gull *Larus fuscus* (total 500 gulls) were sitting on the edge of a shallow water body at 1300 h.

The species has been reported from Shinay

dam, Anjar tehsil, Kachchh (Bapat and Himmatsinhji 1992) and the coast of Bhavnagar (Parasharya *et al.* 1994). Present sight records suggest that the species might be far more common on the coast and freshwater bodies of Gujarat than it was believed to be, and it can be distinguished from other gulls using a good optical instrument.

May 8, 1997

B.M. PARASHARYA

AESHITA MUKHERJEE

T.V. PATEL

AINP on Agricultural Ornithology,

Gujarat Agricultural University,

Anand-388 110, Gujarat.

REFERENCES

- BAPAT, N.N. & M.K. HIMMATSINHJI (1992): Occurrence of *Larus minutus* Pallas in Kutch. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 89(1): 119-120.
 PARASHARYA, B.M., K.L. MATHEW & N.C. BHATT (1994): Sighting of Little Gull *Larus minutus* Pallas at Bhavnagar New Port, Gujarat. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 91(1): 141.

9. THREETOED KINGFISHER *CEYX ERITHACUS* SIGHTED AT PANARWA

Panarwa is a village situated about 100 km. southwest of Udaipur in Rajasthan. High hills of the Aravalli surround this village, which has an extensive forest area, one of the densest and largest forest tracts of Rajasthan. The River Vokal runs through this forest. Deep and shady pools of water remain all through the year at many places in the river in this region. The river course is strewn with boulders and the banks have dense vegetation. The area has been declared a Wildlife Sanctuary called "Phoolwari Ki Naal."

On April 20, 1997 at 1715 h as I was searching around some of the shady pools of Vokal river for aquatic birds, I sighted a kingfisher perched on a branch about 30 m from where I stood. The plumage of this bird took me

by surprise as it was different from all the kingfishers found in this region. This prompted me to make a detailed note of its features with the help of my binoculars. The bird obliged me for about seven minutes and then flew away. When I compared its features with those in "HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN" by Sálím Ali and S. Dillon Ripley (1987) I found it to be an Indian three toed forest kingfisher (*Ceyx erithacus*).

The distribution of this bird is restricted to moist deciduous and evergreen biotope. Ali & Ripley's HANDBOOK says: "Resident, dispersing widely during the rainy season with the advent of suitable conditions. Thus, a regular SW monsoon (breeding) visitor to many areas. then